



A Quick, Effective Solution

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It's March 2003. The United States is in the height of the war in Iraq and the Department of Homeland Security is regularly issuing security warnings. If you are the property manager of a large downtown office building, how do you ensure your building is ready to go into a high-security mode and still keep it accessible to tenants, clients and suppliers? Here's how one firm managed to do it.

The IDS Tower in Minneapolis, MN is a busy, highly visible building in the center of downtown. It is 57 stories high, with a main elevator lobby that is accessible from one door off the street and also from an atrium called the Crystal Court, which houses a variety of retail spaces. IDS Tower's building security system, C-Cure 800 by Software House, employs proximity card readers and HID badges. All employees have badges, but they are only required to use them in the elevators after hours. During business hours, the lobby is open to tenants and visitors. Deb Kolar, the building manager of RREEF Properties, asked its security management company, SecuriCo, to put a system in place that would allow them to restrict access to the elevator lobby when heightened security warnings were in effect while still maintaining a comfortable lobby environment.

SecuriCo researched a variety of systems and quickly specified a wireless solution: Wyreless Access by Recognition Source. Jim Andrews, president of SecuriCo, said, "We looked at a lot of options and this system met all our needs. The range of coverage from reader to control panel was outstanding. It exceeded all our expectations." Kolar concurs, "We have a building with a lot of concrete infrastructure and the transmission is great. We had absolutely no problems with reception. We can even use this outdoors in our parking garage and our inside loading dock," she said.

Gene Schabart of Low Voltage Contractors, the installer on this project, contacted Fred Conforti, CEO of Recognition Source, in March. "Gene called me on Thursday and wanted to install the system Saturday. We agreed to ship immediately, and the system was up and running by Monday morning," said Conforti. By Monday morning, all building users were being checked on-line, real time.

"A wireless installation is so much quicker and easier," said Schabart. "This type of product virtually eliminates the often time-consuming task of coordinating with several different trades. We installed Wyreless Access's Panel Interface Module and two remote antennae. The lobby guards were given hand-held portable readers, and within four days, we had solved our client's problem."